

Message Text

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15

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-10 JUSE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1044

HQ DEA WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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DEA HQ FOR EOIE (GF DENMARK)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, DA

SUBJECT: INCREASE IN MAXIMUM NARCOTICS PENALTY

REF: COPENHAGEN 0598

1. ON JUNE 12 THE DANISH PARLIAMENT (FOLKETING) PASSED AN AMENDED VERSION OF THE GOVERNMENT'S BILL PROVIDING FOR AN INCREASE IN THE MAXIMUM PENALTY FOR NARCOTICS OFFENSES FROM SIX TO TEN YEARS. THE BILL, WHICH CARRIED BY A CONFORTABLE MAJORITY, WAS EARLIER MODIFIED IN COMMITTEE TO EXCLUDE VIOLATIONS INVOLVING HASISH AND MARIJUNA, REGARDLESS OF QUANTITY. THERE WILL CONTINUE TO CARRY A MAXIMUM PENALTY OF SIX YEARS. IN MOST OTHER RESPECTS THE LAW IS AS REPORTED IN REFTEL.

2. THE EXCLUSION OF CANNABIS PRODUCTS FROM AN INCREASE OF PENALTY REPRESENTS SOMETHING OF A VICTORY FOR THE OPPONENTS

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OF A GENERAL INCREASE IN THE PENALTY FRAMEWORK, AND BY

FOCUSSING ON HARD DRUGS IN A SENSE CONDIFIES JUSTICE
MINISTER ORLA MOLLER'S EARLIER STATEMENT THAT THE
GOVERNMENT'S BILL WAS NOT AIMED AT USERS AND SMALL-
TIME PEDDLERS BUT AT INTERNATIONAL TRAFFICKERS.
IN ANY CASE THE NEW LAW SHOULD STRENGTHEN THE HANDS
OF THE POLICE IN HARD DRUG CASES AT A TIME WHEN THE
EMBASSY HAS DETECTED A FEELING IN SOME DANISH
GOVERNMENT CIRLCES THAT DENMARK'S NARCOTICS PROBLEMS
ARE ON THE WANE.
DUNNIGAN

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: buchantr
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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